

*Identification and comparison of candidate products*

As shoppers begin to understand what they want and what is available they typically compile a list of candidates that will be considered more carefully. The present inventive agents supports the construction and maintenance of such lists and

5 facilitates the comparison of candidates within the list according to various criteria.

*Negotiation of offers*

The present shopping agent is not restricted to providing the shopper with information. It is possible to negotiate prices and service options with retailers.

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*Product Selection, Purchase and Product support*

The present invention facilitates the transaction itself and can be used as a channel through which product service can be delivered.

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While various embodiments have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. Thus, the breadth and scope of a preferred embodiment should not be limited by any of the above described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

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**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A method for creating an information summary, comprising the steps of:
  2. (a) obtaining one or more items of interest;
  3. (b) determining the physical location of the user;
  4. (c) creating a query based on the items of interest and the physical location of the user;
  5. (d) querying a network of information utilizing the query; and
  6. (e) displaying information associated with the items of interest and their locations relative to the physical location of the user.

1 2. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of parsing the terms based on predefined criteria to create  
3 the query.

1 3. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of providing constants that are utilized by the system for  
3 dynamically configuring the system based on current user inputs.

1 4. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of ranking the results based on relevance to meeting  
3 criteria.

1 5. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of utilizing proximity to a meeting date as a filtering  
3 device for the information summary.

1 6. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of pattern recognition to enhance the location of pertinent  
3 information.

1 7. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including support for querying the Internet to obtain pertinent information.

1 8. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including optimizing the query for a particular search engine.

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1 9. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,  
2 including the step of responding to updates of the meeting information to  
3 obtain additional summary information pertinent to the updates.

1 10. An apparatus that creates an information summary, comprising;  
2 (a) a processor;  
3 (b) a memory that stores information under the control of the processor;  
4 (f) logic that obtains one or more items of interest;  
5 (g) logic that determines the physical location of the user;  
6 (h) logic that creates a query based on the items of interest and the physical  
7 location of the user;  
8 (i) logic that queries a network of information utilizing the query; and  
9 (j) logic that displays information associated with the items of interest and their  
10 locations relative to the physical location of the user.

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1 11. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary, comprising:  
3 (a) a code segment that logic that obtains one or more items of interest;  
4 (b) a code segment that determines the physical location of the user;  
5 (c) a code segment that creates a query based on the items of interest and the  
6 physical location of the user;  
7 (d) a code segment that queries a network of information utilizing the query; and  
8 (e) a code segment that displays information associated with the items of interest  
9 and their locations relative to the physical location of the user.

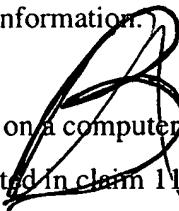
1 12. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that parses  
3 the terms based on predefined criteria to create the query.

1 13. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that modifies  
3 constants that are utilized by the system for dynamically configuring the  
4 system based on current user inputs.

1 14. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that ranks the  
3 results based on relevance to meeting criteria.

1 15. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that utilizes  
3 proximity to a meeting date as a filtering device for the information  
4 summary.

1 16. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that  
3 recognizes patterns to enhance the location of pertinent information.

1 17. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that queries  
3 the Internet to obtain pertinent information. 

1 18. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that  
3 optimizes the query for a particular search engine.

1 19. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates  
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that responds  
3 to updates of the meeting information to obtain additional summary  
4 information pertinent to the updates.

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